

A. sericeocaudatus. It is based on a specimen from Volcan de Irazir, collected by Señor Anastacio Alfaro, director of the Costa Rica National Museum.

In a short notice of a collection of birds from the interior of Honduras,* Mr. Ridgway has described two new subspecies (*Platyptaris aglaia hypophæus* and *Pithys bicolor olivaceus*), and the female and young male of *Gymnocichla chiroleuca* Scl. and Salv., and a young male of *Grallaria guatemalensis* Prév., previously undescribed. He also records 13 other species as of interest on account of the locality. He has also described as new *Thamnophilus albicrissa* and *T. trinitatis* from Trinidad,† and published remarks on *Xiphocolaptes procurvus* Cab., and *X. albicollis* Licht.,‡ and on *Pachyrhamphus albinucha* Burm.,§ which he makes the type of a new genus *Xenopsaris*. In a paper on Costa Rican birds,|| he has given notes on 10 species, including two described as new (*Platyptaris aglaia obscurus* and *Scytalopus argentifrons*). *Picolaptes gracilis* Ridgw. is thought to have been based on a young example of *P. compressus*.

He has also reviewed the genus *Sittasomus*,¶ of which he recognizes seven species, two of which (*S. chapadensis* and *S. æquatorialis*) are described as new. This is an addition of four to the three recently admitted by Dr. Sclater (Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., Vol. XV, 1890). Mr. Ridgway's review is based on a series of 44 specimens, including the types of *S. olivaceus* Wied and *S. amazonus* Lafr.

Two other recent papers by the same author relate to North American birds, one of them treating of *Porzana jamaicensis coturniculus* Baird,** which he finds is closely related to *P. spilonota* of the Galapagos Islands. He proposes to recognize it provisionally as a distinct species, under the name *Porzana coturniculus*. The original type of the species remains unique. (Cf. Auk, IX, p. 108.) The other paper describes a new Sharp-tailed Sparrow from California,†† under the name *Ammodramus caudatus becki*, based on a single specimen from Santa Clara County. (Cf. Auk, IX, p. 108.)—J. A. A.

Ridgway and Bendire's Directions for Collecting and Preparing Birds and their Eggs and Nests.—In twenty-seven pages of Bulletin No. 39 of

*Notes on Some Birds from the Interior of Honduras. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, pp. 467-471.

† Description of Two Supposed New Forms of *Thamnophilus*. *Ibid.*, p. 481.

‡ Further Notes on the Genus *Xiphocolaptes* of Lesson. *Ibid.*, XIII, pp. 47, 48.

§ Note on *Pachyrhamphus albinucha*, Burmeister. *Ibid.*, XIV, pp. 479, 480.

|| Notes on Some Costa Rican Birds. *Ibid.*, XIV, pp. 473-478.

¶ Notes on the Genus *Sittasomus* of Swainson. *Ibid.*, pp. 507-510.

** Observations on the Farallon Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis coturniculus* Baird). *Ibid.*, XIII, pp. 309-311.

†† Description of a New Sharp-tailed Sparrow from California. *Ibid.*, XIV, pp. 483, 484.

the United States National Museum Mr. Ridgway* gives very full and explicit directions for collecting birds for scientific purposes, under the following subheadings: (1) 'General Remarks,' (2) 'Outfit for Collecting,' (3) 'Procuring Specimens,' (4) 'Preparing and Preserving Specimens,' (5) 'Packing Specimens for Shipment,' and (6) 'Records.'

Captain Bendire, in a paper of ten pages† gives similar directions for collecting, preparing, and preserving birds' eggs, and nests. Both papers are illustrated with cuts of implements to be employed, etc., and having been prepared by experts of long experience may be relied upon as being in the highest degree trustworthy.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on a Collection of Birds from Japan.‡—In a paper of about ten pages Dr. Stejneger gives notes on a first instalment of birds from the Science College Museum of Tokyo, Japan, sent him for examination. Of some thirty-five species here annotated several prove to be additions to the Japanese avifauna. Among these is *Bulweria bulweri*, *Falco pealei*, *Emberiza leucocephala*, and *E. pusilla*. Important critical notes occur in relation to the species of *Phaëton* and *Cuculus*.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on the Cubital Coverts in the Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds.§—This paper is apropos of Mr. Goodchild's paper on 'The Cubital Coverts of the Euornithæ in Relation to Taxonomy' (Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinb., X, pp. 317-333, pl. xv). Dr. Stejneger finds that the arrangement of the cubital coverts in these birds conforms to that in the other Passeres, instead of to that of the Cypseliformes, as claimed by Mr. Goodchild. Dr. Stejneger's examinations thus tend rather to strengthen Mr. Goodchild's estimate of the considerable value of the arrangement of the cubital coverts in birds as a taxonomic character.—J. A. A.

Stone on the Birds of Harvey's Lake, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.|| Mr. Stone gives an annotated list of 54 species observed June 15-20, 1891, prefaced by an account of the position and general character of the region in question, and remarks on its faunal relations. It is 'situated

*Directions for Collecting Birds. By Robert Ridgway. Part A of the Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 39. 1891. 8vo. pp. 27.

†Directions for Collecting, Preparing, and Preserving Birds' Eggs and Nests. By Charles E. Bendire, Part D of Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 39. 1891. 8vo. pp. 10.

‡Notes on Japanese Birds contained in the Science College Museum, Imperial University, Tokyo, Japan. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XIV, 1891, pp. 489-498.

§ Notes on the Cubital Coverts in the Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds. *Ibid.*, pp. 499, 500.

|| The Summer Birds of Harvey's Lake, Luzerne Co., Pennsylvania, with Remarks on the Faunal Position of the Region. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1891, pp. 431-438.